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REMARKABLE ACCOUNT

OF

MRS. RACHEL LUCAS,

DAUGHTER OF

MR. JAMES HINMAN,

OF DURHAM, (CONN.)

AS WRITTEN BY HERSELF,

AND ATTESTED BY HER

FAMILY AND ACQUAINTANCE.

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REMARKABLE ACCOUNT
OF
MRS. RACHEL LUCAS.

AFTER long and distressing infirmity, having experienced a surprising salvation, I feel it a duty incumbent on me, to give the following narrative of myself; wherein I have been more particular in noticing the several places where I have lived, that those who have seen me in my former afflictions, might join with me now in giving that glory to God, which is due unto Him; from whom we receive “every good, and every perfect gift.”

I was born January 12th, 1774; and at the age of seventeen years, while absent from home, was greatly afflicted with the tooth-ache; which tooth was broken in an unsuc-

cessful attempt of my doctor, to extract it. He then applied aquafortis, to kill the nerve of the tooth; this application so augmented my distress, as to throw me immediately into convulsion fits, which became so alarming that another physician was consulted; the result of their deliberations was, to let blood, which they attempted by making sixteen incisions in my feet and arms, but without success; they next prescribed a warm bath, which produced such an effusion of blood from every orifice, as to give a momentary relief; but I was soon seized again with cramp convulsion fits, which continued for the space of thirteen days, in quick and almost unceasing succession. At intervals I enjoyed my senses a few moments. On the fifteenth day of my illness I was carried to my father's, where I remained three days wholly senseless, as I had previously been during my fits, and for two weeks enjoyed but a few short intervals of reason: for six succeeding months was confined to my bed, with almost daily convulsions, and more than two years continued in a very low state. I then began in a very singular manner to help myself about the house; being unable to walk erect, I moved my right foot forward with my right hand, while I steadied myself by placing my left hand on the floor; then putting my right hand on the floor, with my left hand I mov-

ed my left foot, which was my most easy manner of walking for thirteen years. At the age of nineteen, in consequence of a previous engagement, was married to Mr. Stephen Lucas; we moved to New-Haven, where I taught a school. The next year we returned to Durham, where soon after the birth of my first child I had the nervous fever, and for six months was unable to turn myself in bed. From this sickness I gradually recovered to my former decrepid state. A little previous to the birth of my second child, I was sick with the pleurisy and dysentary, which brought me very low. After removing, (in the county of Middlesex) to Westfield, again to New-Haven, to Middletown, Berlin, and Rocky-hill, (where in a severe convulsion while my nurse was absent, I fell from my bed, and parted the bones in my head) we returned to Durham, where I was again violently seized with the dysentary, which apparently brought me near to the shades of death. After recovering my usual health, we removed to Middlefield, county of Middlesex, where I now live.

Although, notwithstanding such embarrassments, I generally persevered in performing all necessary domestic duties in my family, I now feel I have been shamefully negligent in my duty to God. My great concern of mind in all those distressing scenes wore off on my recovering my former

state, poor and decrepid as it was. The last three months I have been more than ever concerned for my immortal soul: being very unwell, I thought I should not live long, and felt unprepared for eternity.— About three weeks previous to, and a fortnight after the birth of my sixth child, my distress almost deprived me of sleep. On Tuesday evening the 31st of December, 1805, my pain was violent in every limb and joint. I fainted thrice in attempting to sit only long enough to have my bed made. Being a little composed, my nurse retired to rest; after I had observed to her, that I thought I should call her before morning, thinking I could not live through the night.

While I lay in great distress of body, no tongue can describe the anguish of my soul. The thoughts of launching into eternity, in my then present state, was too intolerable to be borne. I now began to pray earnestly to God, to have mercy on me for his Son's sake; and, if consistent with his holy will, to heal both soul and body; but that whatever became of the body, he would save my poor unworthy soul, which I saw must be irrecoverably lost, unless his mercy interposed in my behalf. And about midnight, the Lord, of his rich mercy and free grace, was pleased to answer my prayers, remove my deep distress, and grant me a calm peace. I felt the language of my Saviour applied to

me. “*Daughter, be of good cheer ; thy sins are forgiven thee.*” The Lord then, as I believed, revealed to me, that He had healed both soul and body, and that at nine o’clock in the morning, on the first day of the year, I should in a cold, stupid state, like a dying person ; and then rise from this death-like state, and at ten o’clock stand on my feet before the Lord, and my friends. I then awoke my husband and family, and my brother’s wife, who lived in the house, and told them as above. After awhile, they retired again to rest, but my soul was so filled with sacred joy, that I could not sleep ; but continued praising God, until break of day. I then sent for my parents and friends to come and rejoice with me in the marvellous goodness of the Lord. When my parents, friends and neighbours came, they were astonished to hear me describe what the Lord had done for me : yet many of them could not believe that my feeble limbs, so long unaccustomed to activity, and which I could not move without assistance, could receive strength to enable me to stand and walk. But my faith was strong in the Lord, that HE would bring to pass whatever HE had promised. About nine o’clock my flesh began to be cold, and the blood to settle under my nails ; the by-standers were affected, thinking I was dying ; my mother wished to apply warm clothes to my body ; I told them not

to weep ; I should recover and stand before the Lord. I remained in this state about fifty minutes, and then to all appearance, was lifeless about ten minutes ; in which time my soul was transported beyond the things of time and sense ; while I had a believing view of the angelic throng, and enjoyed unspeakable rapture. I suddenly revived from this apparent death-like state, and arose in the presence of many witnesses,* without any assistance, stood before the Lord on my feet, and praised God, and gave glory to his sacred name. At half past three o'clock I received of the Lord strength to walk from the bed to the fire, and back again to the bed. My strength has daily increased since that time, so that I am now able to walk about my room.

O may I ever have grace to praise the Lord, for his wonderful goodness, and great mercy to me, the most unworthy of his creatures. And may all who love the Lord join with me to extol his holy name.

RACHEL LUCAS.

Middlefield, County of Middlesex, 1806.

* *Stephen Lucas,
Medad Strong,
Abigail Hinman,
Esther Hinman,*

*James Hinman,
Jephtha Hull,
Ruth Cone.*

P. S. That the goodness of God might more fully appear, I have thought proper to add a list of the names of those Physicians who have prescribed for me in the forementioned account of my illness, and whose particular attention I remember with gratitude, viz.

<i>Doctors' Names.</i>	<i>Places of abode.</i>
Doctor Norton,	} <i>Durham.</i>
Guernsey,	
Coles,	
Cruttenden,	
Foot,	
Osborn,	} <i>Middletown.</i>
Tracy,	
Hall,	
Potter,	} <i>Wallingford.</i>
Gaylord,	
Catlin,	
Ives,	} <i>New-Haven.</i>
Hubbard,	
Spalding,	
Munson,	
Munson, jr.	
Northrop,	
Langworthy,	} <i>Guilford.</i>
Pincheon,	
Marvin,	
Brooks,	

Hall,		<i>Meriden.</i>
Wells,		<i>Berlin.</i>
Ridee,	}	<i>Glastenbury.</i>
Coleman,		
Hosford,	}	<i>Wethersfield.</i>
Broadbent,		
Barnard,		
Olcott,		
Hoadley,		<i>Middlefield.</i>

The last Sabbath in February, Mrs. Lucas rode three miles, to Durham, and attended divine service.

Rev. EBENEZER WASHBURN'S testimony concerning Mrs. LUCAS.

AMONG the many surprising instances of the powerful displays of God's mercy to the sinful children of men ; I think the experience of Mrs. Lucas is worthy the attention of every rational creature. I had no personal acquaintance with her till the first day of January, in the year of our Lord 1806 ; when as I was riding through the neighbourhood, I was informed that a woman who had not straitened herself, or stood erect for near thirteen years, had that morning been instantaneously healed, and stood on her feet. But receiving my information from small children, I made no stop, but rode on to Mr. E. Miller's, where I had an appointment to preach that evening. I had not long been there, before I was sent for to go and see, and converse with the woman. When I came to the house I found her lying on the bed in great raptures, praising God, and calling on all present to help her, as there were several of the neighbours who were acquainted with her in her decrepid state, assembled at the house to see the strange sight.—Every countenance seemed to bespeak wonder and astonishment ; while all with united voice acknowledged they had seen that which nothing short of divine

power could have brought to pass. Her father, mother, and husband, together with many others present, gave me information concerning the state of the woman, for thirteen years that were past, exactly corroborating the narrative which Mrs. Lucas has written of God's dealings with her.

When I came to converse with her, I found her sole theme to be to talk of the love of Jesus, and call on all to praise him, that he had had mercy on her who was so great a sinner. Her language was truly that of a soul converted to God. I was informed by those present, that she had stood that morning unassisted by any mortal, and praised the Lord who had miraculously given her strength. The next morning I called to see her again, when I had the pleasure to see her both stand and walk. I have frequently seen her since; she still continues to walk with increasing strength, and to outward appearance her life corresponds with the profession of religion. Surely no power but that which restored the infirm man at Bethseda could perform this miracle of healing.

Med. Hist.

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